Joint Statement containing a vision for India-China relations and an action plan for cooperation in bilateral, rigional and global domains. Eleven other bilateral agreements were also signed.

(c) and (d) Both sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question and concluded an "Agreement on the Political parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question". They also reiterated the need to seek an early clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control through the mechanism of Joint Working Group.

There was no specific mention of Arunachal Pradesh during the talks.

(e) and (f) During the visit, the India-China Joint Study Group submitted its report to the two Prime Ministers, in which it recommended an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement. The two Prime Ministers agreed to appoint a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from, the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content.

Effect off F-16 Supply on Indo-Pak Talks

3157. SHRI R. KAMRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan by U.S. would hamper the on-going talks between Pakistan and India;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that U.S. had made concrete offer to sale F-16s to Pakistan and whereas U.S. had only made a bunch of promises to sale F-16s and F-18s to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) President Bush telephoned Prime Minister on March 25, 2005 to convey initiatives the Administration intended to take on bilateral ties. He also told Prime Minister that the US had decided to go ahead with the supply of an undetermined number of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Prime Minister expressed his disappointment to President Bush at the US Administration's decision to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Government conveyed its concern that such supplies would erode the goodwill for the United States in India and also have repercussions on the India-Pakistan dialogue that is currently at a sensitive juncture.

(c) The details of the US proposal to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan are yet not known and the proposal is yet to be approved by the US Congress.

On March 25, 2005, the US Under Secretary of Defence conveyed that US companies have received approval from the US Administration to respond to the Indian Request for Information (RFI) for the Multi Role Combat Aircraft. No decision has been made in this matter. Government will take decisions on defence related matters based on India's national interest.

Indian Delegation to Angola and Nigeria

3158. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of senior officials of his Ministry visited Angola and Nigeria so as to firm up ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of the visit; country wise; and

(c) the broad details of the talks held by the delegation with its counterpart and the outcome thereof, country wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Purpose of the visit was to hold bilateral consultations on issues of mutual interest.

(c) i. In Nigeria, discussions were primarily held on co-operation in the Petroleum Sector. Discussions were also held with the Foreign Office on various bilateral issues and measures to strengthen economic cooperation. Views were exchanged with regard to reform of the UN Security Council. India was assured of Nigeria's desire to strengthen co-operation with India on all the above areas.

ii. In Angola, discussions were primarily held on co-operation in the Petroleum Sector. Discussions were also held with the Foreign Office on various bilateral issues and measures to strengthen economic co-operation. Views were exchanged with regard to reform of the UN Security Council. India was assured of Angola's desire to strengthen co-operation with India on all the issues. An agreement to rehabilitate a railway line in angola was signed.